

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01230 171123Z

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SUBJECT: MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY JAZZ BAND-EVALUATION REPORT

REF: MADRID 01431

1. ONCE AGAIN THE MILLIKIN GOT A ROUSING RECEPTION IN PORTUGAL. UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, URBAN SOPHISTICATES, AS WELL AS RESIDENTS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES, PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS AND CONSERVATORY STUDENTS AGREED THIS IS A FIRST CLASS ENSEMBLE. THE BAND SPENT THE WEEK OF JANUARY 22-30 PLAYING IN BOTH THE LISBON AND PORTO AREAS. VENUES INCLUDED THE UNIVERSITY OF LISBON (600 PLUS), NATIONAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC (500), THE TOWN HALL IN SETUBAL DISTRICT (450), (A LARGELY LEFTIST AREA), AND FOUR TOWN IN THE NORTH WHERE AUDIENCES RANGED FROM 2,000 IN AVEIRO TO ABOUT 400 IN VILA REAL.

2. PROFESSIONAL, HARDWORKING, LONG-SUFFERING AT TIMES, GIVEN SOME OF THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY WORKED, THE MILLIKIN IS AN IMPRESSIVE GROUP. IT IS HARD TO REMEMBER THAT THEY ARE ONLY STUDENTS. THEIR

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MUSICIANSHIP IS OUTSTANDING. MORE THAN THAT THEY HAVE A FRESH, ENTHUSIASTIC APPROACH WHICH IMPRESSES ALL WHO WORK WITH THEM. DESPITE THE UNAVOIDABLE SNAFUS INVOLVED IN TOURING SUCH A GROUP, POST FEELS IT WELL WORTH THE EFFORT. THEIR VISIT PROVIDED US AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH AN AMERICAN PRESENCE IN AREAS WE DO NOT USUALLY REACH. AN IN PORTUGAL JUST NOW, THAT IS STILL

NECESSARY FROM TIME TO TIME.

3. HOWEVER, DESPITE OUR ENTHUSIASM FOR CONTINUING TO
PROGRAM SUCH GROUPS, WE, TOO, ARE IN THE PROCESS OF
REASSESSING. PARA. 4 OF REFTEL IS ABOUT THE BEST
STATEMENT OF THE DILEMMA WE HAVE SEEN. WE ENDORSE IT
WHOLEHEARTEDLY, AND URGE THE DEPARTMENT AND THE AGENCY
TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR THE FUTURE.
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